

Read selections from Genesis 24 - 34 and answer the following questions:

Use this worksheet and your readings to study for the test in two weeks.

Gen. 24 (24:1-41, 62-67)

1. Describe and explain the symbolic *action* that the old servant took when he made his oath to Abraham. (You may use the *Harper's Bible Dictionary* to look up "thigh").
2. What was the *content* of the oath to which the servant swore?
3. What sign does the servant seek when he arrives at the well of water?
4. What relation does Rebekah bear to Abraham (v. 15)? Draw a family tree if necessary.
5. What can you discern regarding Laban's character from v. 29 to 31?
6. The episode in which Rebekah and Isaac first meet is well noted as a romantic highlight in the Patriarchal narrative. What details make it so?

Gen. 25

7. Why does Isaac "pray" to the LORD? (our bible, the NAB, reads "entreats" the LORD)
8. How does the LORD explain the struggling of her children in the womb? And what will be the unusual outcome? (As you read further into the story, consider whether the rather despicable behavior on Rebekah's part might have something to do with her desire to fulfill this prophecy.)

9. Describe Esau both physically and in terms of his interests.
10. Describe Jacob and his interests.
11. Why does Esau give up his birthright?
12. Is there anything in his language and tone that indicates that Esau is unintelligent? (v. 29 – 34)

Gen. 27 – 28:5

13. Read 26:34, 35. Of what nationality were Esau's wives and how did they treat Isaac and Rebekah?
14. What did Rebekah overhear Isaac say to Esau?
15. What steps does she take to help Jacob deceive her husband, Isaac?
16. What bits of the narrative suggest that Isaac was suspicious?
17. How do Isaac and Esau respond when they each realize Isaac has been deceived?
18. What are the reasons for Jacob's departure for Laban in Haran according to 27:41-45?
19. What are the reasons for Jacob's departure for Laban in Paddan-aram according to 27:46-28:5?
20. How would you explain the inconsistency between these last two passages?

21. Now that we've reached the conclusion of this story of lies and deceit, consider the following questions and develop one of your own.

1. How would you describe the characters? Consider what virtues and vices they exhibit.

	Description	Virtues/Vices
Rebekah		
Jacob		
Esau		
Isaac		

2. If this is the story we tell about ourselves, what purpose does it serve? Consider your own opinion, but feel free to explore what others have said (just let me know the author and the source)

Gen. 28:10-22

22. What did Jacob see and hear in his dream/theophany? How is this encounter with God similar to and different from previous theophanies we've seen?

23. What does Jacob name this place and what does it mean in English? _____
(This will become a rival ritual site to Jerusalem when the kingdom splits after the death of King Solomon – lock this bit of information away until the fourth quarter. Write the year this occurred, here, using the timeline in your bible: _____)

Many people believe the person who wrote this story lived in the Northern Kingdom because he likes to place heroes and action in the Northern Kingdom. He also tends to consider God as so awesome and remote, that people could die from being in His presence. He is known as the Priest. Write the first letter of his name here: _____).

Gen 29

23. How are Leah and Rachel each described, physically? Which one does Jacob love?

24. What arrangement does Jacob make with Laban?

25. What surprise does Jacob have on his wedding night?

26. Could this be a case of poetic justice? Explain. (Feel free to find out what *poetic justice* is). Is it enough to punish Jacob adequately?

Gen. 30

27. What women bear children for Jacob?

28. Who is the child of Rachel, Jacob's favorite?

29. How does Jacob turn the tables on Laban in regard to the goat herd?

Gen. 31

30. What had Rachel stolen from Laban's house and hidden in the camel's saddle bag? Read the footnote and explain this detail. What do you make of this? (Which of Ninian Smart's dimensions of religion is exhibited here?)

Gen. 34

31. Why does Shechem's offer to marry Dinah sound so outrageous?

32. What immediate response do the sons of Jacob give to this offer? What are the conditions?

33. What do Simeon and Levi do to the city of Shechem? What might explain their incredible success?

34. Why would Simeon and Levi, of all the sons of Jacob, be the ones to exact this revenge? Consult a family tree if necessary.

Review Questions:

35. What are the characteristics of family and social structures as conveyed in these stories?

36. Why are these stories compelling? What role do these tales of intrigue and competition play in the biblical narrative?

36. Find a rendering of any scene from this section of the bible in the history of western art and culture and bring it in if possible. A website address will do. Have a parent sign off on your use of the computer for this task here: _____ (Parent Signature). Explain the work's perspective on the subject.